

DISCOVER

Brooks' Wingman Day stresses importance of supporting fellow Airmen

By 1st Lt. Jason Bishop
311th Human Systems Wing/PA

Airmen taking care of Airmen was the idea behind Wingman Day, the Nov. 19 Brooks City-Base event. The day-long event was organized as an opportunity for Air Force bases and their personnel to stop and reflect on the health of the force.



To accomplish the Wingman Day goals, various activities and discussions were held throughout the day to emphasize four key areas: recognition and celebration of unit accomplishments, discussion of the stressors that come with success, re-emphasis of the support services available and the importance of Airmen being good wingmen in the Air Force tradition.

"I really like the Wingman philosophy," said Brig. Gen. Tom Travis, 311th Human Systems Wing commander. "As a fighter pilot, I know personally there is an unspoken bond or contract between wingmen to provide mutual support for each other.

This is part of our heritage as Airmen, and it applies not just in the air combat arena among pilots, but on the ground among all Airmen – officers, enlisted, civilian professionals and our contract support teams."

Wingman Day kicked off with a commander's call in the base fitness center where General Travis spoke to the base community about major stressors involved in being a part of the Air Force and the agencies on Brooks available to assist those in need. He also emphasized the importance of Airmen taking care of and watching out for other Airmen.

"(Airmen) are all dedicated to a mission much greater than each of us alone," the General said. "For us to be effective we must support one another in the stressful work that we do."

The commander's call was followed by a three-mile fun run, a base-wide chili cook-off and an afternoon filled with discussions and activities in smaller group settings used to further express the importance of the Wingman concept.

General Travis is more than happy with the results of the day's events.

"I am extremely pleased with the response we have already had to the Wingman Day message and activities," he said. "It was a positive and uplifting day, with emphasis placed on being a team and looking out for each other."

Although the event itself took place over one day, the concept of the day is meant to be more lasting.

"We will continue to emphasize the Wingman philosophy at Brooks," General Travis said. "It is important for the well-being of our great people and the success of our important mission."

The Chili Cook Off, hosted by Family Support Services, was just one of several Wingman Day activities. Other events included a Fun Run and team building activities.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Samantha Shieh

'TIS THE SEASON TO BE JOLLY



Photo by Staff Sgt. Alfonso Ramirez Jr.

Children lined up to visit Santa Claus at the Annual Tree Lighting ceremony outside Hanger 9. The event is an annual tradition which takes place the first day of December every year.



Brig. Gen. Tom Travis, the 311th Human Systems Wing commander, awards Master Sgt. Gladys Wolff of the USAF School of Aerospace Medicine an award for best tasting chili at the Wingman Day Chili Cook Off.

Photo by Airman 1st Class Samantha Shieh

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DISCOVERY

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Sometimes it's all about your perspective

By Staff Sgt. Andeelynn Owens

341st Space Wing Public Affairs, Malmstrom AFB, Mont.

Recently I had the distinct pleasure of interviewing two Malmstrom NCOs who had each been presented the Bronze Star medal for their courageous actions in a war zone. Not only was it amazing to hear of their accounts first-hand, but it was also a time for us to share war stories from our work in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

If you talk to someone who recently returned from a deployment he or she will have a favorite war story to tell and a "biggest lesson learned." When Master Sgt. Eric Okonski, Tech. Sgt. Daniel Andrews and I sat talking, we agreed on what we considered our "biggest lesson learned" in Iraq and that was simply: perspective, or what really matters.

Let me paint a picture.

After more than 16 hours on your feet in 120 degree heat, you flop on your bed exhausted, thanking God that the air conditioning is working. With no immediate plans other than to down a bottle of luke-cold water and log a few hours of sleep before you have to wake up in the morning and put your body armor back on for another 16 hour day, you fall asleep.

About an hour into your slumber you're jolted awake by the bellowing of the loud speaker screaming for you to take cover because a misled insurgent decided to park his car across the Tigris River and randomly lob mortars at you, your friends and your fellow Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors and Marines.

Then you sit quietly in the dark while you listen to mortar rounds land on all sides of you. You just pray that today isn't your day and try to remember if you told your mom you loved her yesterday on the phone. Now at this point I ask you, what really matters?

From experience I can tell you that by the fourth mortar round I had long forgotten about that member of the press I could have been more cordial to the day before, and I didn't really care that I'd had chicken to eat for the last 60 days and I didn't mind as much that I wasn't able to check my e-mail the day before. You know what really matters? Waking up in the morning and having your friends still alive beside you.

Why does any of this matter? Because everything in life really comes down to perspective — the glass half full, half empty cliché. You can stew about things you have to do and then consequently end up with a horrible attitude, or you can step back for a minute and remember that some of our Airmen have been getting shot at.

A friend gave me a list of thoughts to ponder regarding perspective in different avenues of life, but this is by far my favorite: "Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened."

It's really all about your perspective and how you want to embrace life. Think for a minute how much nicer it is to work with someone who approaches life "half full" rather than "half empty" and then decide what legacy you want to leave with those you know.

On the really-rough days, sometimes our attitude is what saves us and gets us through until tomorrow. And just remember that it's all about your perspective.

Traditions help build families

By Lt. Col. Thomas Summers

741st Missile Squadron commander, Minot Air Force Base, N.D.

Everyone values his or her family. Out of our sense of family and patriotic duty, many active-duty members, Guardsman, Reservists and civilians serve the military with their immediate families standing by their side each step of the way. Most left their familiar hometowns and asked their families to accompany them or stay behind as those in uniform serve our country.

Although we come from many diverse backgrounds, cultures and traditions, we share a common spirit of patriotism, confidence and purpose on one team, in one force and as one Air Force family. Right now, some may feel a sense of sorrow or distress because they can't go home for the holidays due to mission requirements.

Don't despair. You're not alone. One positive way to help manage sadness and stress during the holiday season and build healthy families is by practicing time-honored family and Air Force traditions or by establishing new ones.

Traditions help us stay close to family and friends and show how much we care about those around us, especially during the holidays. Without the normal daily distractions, holiday rituals and traditions ensure we do the things we value with the people we love. For example, many families enjoy making and then eating favorite treats, special dishes or ethnic foods for Thanksgiving. In addition, we keep in touch and stay current through phone calls, family newsletters, e-mails and photographs. Also, we show our care and love for each other with gifts, preparations and spontaneous displays of emotion.

By practicing our favorite traditions, we feel more relaxed and comfortable enough to openly express our heartfelt appreciation for one another. When we talk longingly about our dad's reading of 'Twas the Night Before Christmas', our mother's delicious homemade turkey dinner or remembering the year we finally "graduated" from sitting at the kids' table to eating with the adults, it is the emotions and good feelings connected to those experiences we really miss.

Traditions also help us build a family identity. In our immediate and Air Force families, our traditions help us establish how we communicate, how we make decisions and solve problems as well as how we celebrate holidays, milestones and other events. Our traditions say, "This is how we do things in this family. This is how we decorate our Christmas tree. This is how we practice our spiritual beliefs. This is how we take care of our Airmen. This is who we are."

The older members of our family and Air Force bring patience, wisdom and colorful stories while the younger members bring youthful wonder, energy and excitement as together we bridge generations and enrich each others' lives.

Furthermore, traditions help provide us settings to teach family values. Just as the Air Force teaches the core values of integrity, service and excellence, other family traditions help teach family values through repetition. Since we learn powerful lessons from the activities we repeat year after year, many rituals and traditions foster a tranquil and cheerful atmosphere where learning is likely to flourish. Over time, our family and Air Force values become a part of who we are.

Traditions promote healthy family growth and give us many wonderful reasons to celebrate life together. No matter where this holiday season finds you, observing past or crafting new traditions are fantastic ways of building strong, caring and happy families.

HOLIDAY TRADITIONS

Do you have a favorite holiday tradition? Do you or your family do something exciting and unique every holiday season? The Discovery wants to hear about it! Please email submissions as a text file or word document to:

Kendahl.johnson@brooks.af.mil





Brooks medical group to host HIV/AIDS strategy course

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

Sixty-six medical professionals from 27 countries plan to participate in the 4th annual HIV/AIDS Strategic Planning and Policy Development Course Dec. 13-17 that is being sponsored by the Brooks-based Defense Institute for Medical Operations.

The course, being held for only the second time in San Antonio at the Westin Riverwalk Hotel, is designed to help the international community develop effective strategic plans to combat the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

"AIDS is prevalent within the developing world. Foreign leaders, physicians and HIV/AIDS consultants need to write a strategic plan for intervention and prevention of this disease," said Dr. Kimberley Marshall, a U.S. Navy lieutenant commander with DIMO who has helped plan this course.

The course, inaugurated in 2001, was developed as a result of a U.S. Navy Defense Healthcare Management Institute initiative, Dr. Marshall said. The key issue that course planners focused on was the development of international healthcare standards for HIV/AIDS. The course has evolved

into a series of planning sessions that focuses on ways to help foreign military organizations develop, strengthen and implement effective HIV/AIDS policy strategies.

This year's course theme, "HIV/AIDS is a Military Issue," will be addressed by several guest speakers. Among them is keynote speaker, Dr. Ed Tramont, Division of AIDS Director for the National Institute for Allergy and Infectious Disease in Bethesda, Maryland; and Dr. Jack Crow, Assistant Director-General of the World Health Organization for HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

Other course panelists include representatives from Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, San Diego State University, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, U.S. Air Force Wilford Hall Medical Center and the defense forces of Kenya and Zambia. Dr. Marshall noted that success stories will also be shared, including those from Thailand and South Africa.

U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine commander Col. Courtney Scott will preside at the graduation ceremony on Dec. 17.

Native American storyteller spins a good yarn

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

Keeping alive a tradition centuries old, a Lipan Apache storyteller let the spirits guide her Nov. 18 Brooks City-Base performance that helped commemorate American Indian Heritage Month.

Emma Ortega showcased her culture's oral traditions with short stories punctuated by humor, drama and hyperbole. This art of telling tales has been an integral part of tribal life since the dawn of humanity.

"I always heard stories at home. It is part of our tradition. There's stories for all occasions, but all of them have lessons in them," said Mrs. Ortega, a native San Antonian who has been a professional storyteller for 15 years.

The original purpose of these stories is to preserve heritage by conveying it to the next generation. "This is how we teach our children," she said, noting that tribal elders' stories must be repeated by children to their parents. She said youngsters who correctly and completely retell these stories are given a special treat.

These storytelling sessions also teach children to sit still and pay attention, an important part of learning to survive in the wild. "In our culture, a child who can not stay still and be quiet is not a complete child," she said.

While she claims to have no favorite stories, Mrs. Ortega confessed to having a vast repertoire. "I can tell stories for three hours without repeating myself," she said. However, her storytelling is always guided by 'spirits.' "The spirits are always around us. I may be telling one story and then change to another story," she said. Inspiration from the spirits, or energy life forces, dictate the type of stories being told, she explained.

A member of the San Antonio Storytellers Association, Mrs. Ortega is passionate about what she does. "To me it's always an honor to tell these stories. There's a little child in all of us who wants to hear stories."



Photo by Airman 1st Class Samantha Shieh

Emma Ortega, a Lipan Apache storyteller, performs at Sidney's as part of the Brooks celebration of American Indian Heritage month.

Mrs. Ortega did not disappoint the crowd gathered at Sidney's for the base's keystone event honoring American Indian Heritage Month. She started her session dispelling misperceptions about native peoples.

The stories that followed ranged from a humorous tale about a snapping turtle and a goose that was punctuated with sound effects, to the highly animated story about the Grandfather Creation of animals. The genesis for all these stories is respect for nature and mankind. "How can we go forward if we don't know where we come from?" she asked, knowing that family stories often provide answers to life and self-fulfillment.



Brooks crooner performs anthem at NFL game

By Rudy Purificato

311th Human Systems Wing

A Brooks staff sergeant added to his impressive resume of performances when he joined five other former members of the Air Force's elite entertainment group *Tops In Blue* to sing the national anthem at the Arizona Cardinals-New York Giants game in Phoenix, Ariz. Nov. 14.

The soldout crowd for this NFL contest got more than they had anticipated when the Air Force showcased its talented members including Staff Sgt. Eddie Bernal, a 311th Communications Squadron multimedia center videographer assigned to the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine.

"As a football fan, performing for the first time at an NFL game was a dream come true," said Sergeant Bernal, whose previous sports venue performance includes singing at NASCAR's Coca Cola 500 in Fayetteville, N.C.

"We performed the national anthem at the (Cardinals') 20-yard line. We timed it perfectly. As soon as we finished singing, four F-16s from Luke Air Force Base flew overhead," he said.

An Air Force honor guard from Luke AFB also participated in the pregame ceremony that featured the unfurling of an American flag half the size of the field by members of the local police and fire departments.



Courtesy Photo

Former members of the Air Force's singing group *Tops in Blue* performed the national anthem at a recent Arizona Cardinals game. Staff Sgt. Eddie Bernal, second from left, works at Brooks City-Base for the 311th Communications Squadron.

"It was telecast via satellite to our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan," said Sergeant Bernal, who noted that the Air Force performance may have helped the Cardinals beat the odds against the favored Giants to win 17-14. "We sang them into a win," he said.

More important to the Air Force, the event showcased its members to a na-

tional TV audience. The opportunity was made possible thanks to an Arizona Cardinals official who was impressed by a 2003 *Tops In Blue* performance in Pittsburgh, Pa. "The official, who hires singing talent for Cardinals games, contacted *Tops in Blue*," said the Brooks crooner who was a member of that 50th anniversary *Tops in Blue* tour.

Brooks seeks trainees for intervention courses

The Brooks City-Base Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training team is seeking volunteers to learn to become a valuable suicide prevention first aid resource.

The key to suicide prevention is trained people who are ready, willing and able to identify family, friends and co-workers who may be at risk for suicide. Training is critical to turning denial, avoidance and stigmatization into vigilance, understanding and real help. Through ASIST, one can learn how to identify and intervene with those at-risk individuals.

More than 30,000 Americans kill themselves annually. Research studies in the United States show four to five percent of the population have attempted suicide during their lifetime. Additionally, one in nine persons has seriously considered suicide. The Air Force is not immune to this problem. Last year, seven AFMC members committed suicide.

Most suicidal people feel sad, hopeless and overwhelmed but don't really want to die. ASIST prepares you to know and notice the signs and symptoms and to provide interventions.

Training will be held Jan. 27-28 at the USAF School of Aerospace Medicine, rooms 135-137. Trainees will receive a Suicide Intervention Handbook and other practical tools for future use to help persons at risk for suicide. It is a full two-day training from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. each day. To attend, you must register by calling 536-6931.



Research Laboratory launches aviation study for enhanced warning system

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

The Air Force Research Laboratory has launched an innovative study at Brooks City-Base that supports the development of a new flight warning system designed to significantly enhance pilot safety.

Numerous incidents of general aviation pilots violating controlled airspace led to the AFRL study that focuses on safely using laser light for a new aviation signaling system.

"It became obvious to air traffic controllers that a secondary warning system beyond radio communications is needed to let pilots know to change course," said Maj. (Dr.) Laura Barnes, principal investigator for the Optical Radiation Branch in AFRL's Human Effectiveness Directorate.

The potential for navigational confusion near critical infrastructures, Major

Barnes explained, prompted the aviation community to seek development of an effective secondary signal warning system. This proposed system would be a better alternative to today's broadband light sources, such as ground-based warning lights, that can not be effective across long distances, Major Barnes noted.

The study, which is being conducted in phases, began with a preliminary investigation using experienced pilots. Ten pilots observed a series of laser light signals, varying in intensity, during simulated day and night flight scenarios.

"We're fine-tuning the system to ensure that cognitive interpretation (of the laser signals) is satisfactory," Major Barnes said.

Specifically, the proposed signaling system must not be confused with the many distracting light sources typically encountered over urban areas and must not hamper navigation. The AFRL study team is seeking 50 subjects for the next phase of

the study that is planned for early to mid-December.

Non-federal employee subjects will be paid \$20 an hour, however, must fulfill specific eligibility requirements. These include being 18-65 years old, healthy vision correctable to 20/25 acuity; and no history of ocular pathology, eye surgery, seizures or epilepsy. Subjects are required to have flying experience to participate in the study.

Subjects also will be required to take eye exams before and after their study sessions. Low laser levels in the green and red light spectrum will be used during the study. Active duty military and federal civilian workers can



Courtesy photo

A pilot study subject scans a night scenario horizon during a simulated flight in an attempt to locate a signaling laser light.

volunteer, but will not be paid. Study candidates can contact Major Barnes at 536-5781 or Dr. Leon McLin at 536-4816.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Brooks shuttle service

The Brooks Development Authority will provide dormitory resident shuttle service from Sidney's, Bldg. 714, to and from the retail area on SE Military Drive, across from Brooks City-Base. The shuttle will run Monday through Friday from 5 to 10 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon and from 5 to 10 p.m. and on Sunday from 2 to 6 p.m.

Shuttle service will be continuous during these periods, based on usage. It will not be available on Christmas Day.

Christmas Along the Corridor

The 16th Annual Christmas Along the Corridor Pony Express Run will take place Saturday from 1 to 5 p.m. at the MacArthur Parade Field at Fort Sam Houston.

The free program is a celebration of American history, heritage and the holidays. It is hosted by the Alamo Area Council of Governments, the U.S. Postal Service and

Fort Sam Houston. More than 120 Pony Express Christmas Couriers travel over 120 miles carrying a special holiday greeting from the Governor of Texas to San Antonio.

This is a patriotic and unique event, spotlighting the historical and cultural significance of the Alamo region.

Honor guard refresher course

Members of local base honor guards will get a chance to sharpen their skills during refresher training Dec. 8-10 at Lackland Air Force Base.

The U.S. Air Force Honor Guard Mobile Training Team will conduct base honor guard training to more than 50 people from numerous Air Education and Training Command bases.

Base honor guard members will review full honor funeral procedures and color guard and firing party sequences. For more information contact the U.S. Air Force Honor Guard public affairs at 202-404-6347.

AFOSI seeks new special investigators

By Special Agent E. Darrell Link

Air Force Office of Special Investigations

Military members and civilians looking to cross-train into a challenging and rewarding career field should look no further than becoming a special agent with the Air Force Office of Special Investigations.

Each special agent is a volunteer and a member of a highly trained team. The agents investigate crimes against persons and property, defeat and deter base-level and contract fraud, combat threats to information systems and technologies and provide the Air Force counterintelligence support for its force protection mission.

Senior airmen with less than six years time in service and staff sergeants, technical sergeants and master sergeants with outstanding records and fewer than 12 years of military service are eligible. Senior airmen selected for promotion to staff sergeant, technical sergeants and master sergeants in the security forces career field are also eligible. Senior airmen must be in their cross-training window and members must have at least 18 months time-on-station, which can be waived in some cases.

Officer applicants must have less than 12 years total active federal military service and less than six years total active federal commission service to apply. The Air Force Personnel Center at Randolph Air Force Base must agree to release the officer applicant in order for candidates to apply. Additional information can be found at <http://afas.afpc.randolph.af.mil/osi/crossflow.htm>.

Those persons interested in serving as an OSI agent in the Air Force Reserve should first contact an Air Force Reserve recruiter at 1-800-257-1212, or by email at www.afreserve.com. This requirement applies both to people aspiring to join the Reserves and those who are already in the Reserve program.

OSI accepts applications for civilian special agent positions from experienced law enforcement personnel or from inexperienced college graduates looking for entry-level positions. All positions, except those that are exclusively at the GS-12 and above level, are attainable without law enforcement experience, provided applicants meet certain education requirements.

Applicants with foreign language, computer and technical skills are among those who are highly sought out by the command.



BRIG. GEN. TOM TRAVIS
311th Human Systems
Wing commander

ACTION LINE

536-2222

The **COMMANDER'S ACTION LINE** is your opportunity to make Brooks a better place to live, work and play.

If you have a suggestion for improvement, a complaint or a problem that you have not been able to resolve through normal complaint channels or the chain of command, call the **COMMANDER'S ACTION LINE, 536-2222**.

Only items of general interest will be published, so please leave your name and number for a personal response.

The base agencies listed below can be contacted directly:

311th Security Forces Squadron.....	536-2851	Military Personnel.....	536-1845
SFS after duty hours.....	536-2851	Civilian Personnel.....	536-3353
311th Civil Engineer Squadron.....	536-3861	Military Pay.....	536-5778
311th Communications Squadron.....	536-6571	Civilian Pay.....	536-8370
311th Mission Support Group –		Inspector General (FWA).....	536-2358
Logistics Division.....	536-3541	Military Equal Opportunity.....	536-2584
Safety.....	536-2111	EEO Complaints.....	536-3702
Housing Maintenance.....	533-5900	BXMarket.....	533-9079
Housing Office.....	533-5905	Brooks Development Office.....	536-3655
311th Services Division.....	536-2545	Brooks City-Base Marketing and	
311th Medical Squadron (Clinic).....	536-4715	Development Office.....	536-5366

Virtual Education Center expands service

Air Force members at Brooks City-Base preparing to register for college courses and request Air Force tuition assistance are encouraged to apply on-line using the Air Force Virtual Education Center. Starting Dec. 10, Air Force members will no longer need to access the Brooks home page to apply for tuition assistance, but can accomplish this request directly through AFVEC.

AFVEC is the Air Force's premier site for providing information about educational information and benefits. The purpose of this site is to provide students one-stop-shopping for all higher education needs. In addition to the on-line TA request, AFVEC offers a wide array of on-line services to empower the student to actively participate in all aspects of their education. These services are offered to encourage progress of each educational endeavor the student chooses to participate in; whether it is requesting tuition assistance, working towards their Community College of the Air Force degree or applying for commissioning.

Individuals may access AFVEC directly through the web site at <https://afvec.langley.af.mil> or through a link on the Air Force portal. Members will be required to logon to "My AFVEC" by entering their email address and password. New users will be required to create an account. Once in "My AFVEC," members should click "Request TA" to begin the process of requesting tuition assistance.

Members will be required to know and enter basic course registration information in the on-line TA request. They must know, among other things, the school's exact term start and end dates, course code, course title and cost per semester or quarter hour. Once the member has entered and reviewed the TA request information, the request will be forwarded electronically to the education center for final review and approval. The member will be notified via e-mail and through their AFVEC account when the TA request is approved.

Courtesy Brooks City-Base education office

FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER

SMOOTH MOVE

Dec. 7 – 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Bldg. 537

PCSing? Hear briefings from TMO, Legal, Clinic, Finance, Housing, and the Family Support Center and ask your questions. Open to all active duty members, DoD civilians, and spouses. Any move can be stressful, but an overseas move has its own set of challenges and opportunities. Learn more about your OCONUS PCS by staying after for the PCS Overseas class.

HOME BUYING SEMINAR

Dec. 8 – 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., Bldg. 537

Learn about veterans, Texas veterans, FHA and conventional loans. Hear how to qualify for a mortgage, how to repair your credit and how to refinance your home.

SINGLE PARENTS GROUP

Third Tuesday – 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., Bldg. 537

For a great morale booster, stop by the FSC for a free lunch. Meet other single parents for open discussions or outings. The Chapel, Life Skills Support Center and the Family Support Center are sponsoring this class. Contact LaWanda Roper at 536-2444 or Sandra Cervantes at 536-5301 for more information.

VA BENEFITS ASSISTANCE

Wednesdays – 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., Bldg. 537

A VA representative will be at Brooks weekly. Schedule an appointment to receive VA assistance in filling out your claims, screen medical records, or one-on-one consultations. Bring a copy of your medical records.

**To register for class,
Call 536-2444**

AIR FORCE AID SOCIETY

The Gen. Henry Arnold Education grant program awards \$1,500 grants to dependent sons and daughters of Air Force members and spouses of Air Force members. Use of fund is limited to tuition, books and fees, or other direct educational expenses. This program is tailored for Air Force families with college students (rank does not disqualify you). Application deadline is March 11, 2005. Pick up your application at the Family Support Center or visit the website at www.afas.org to get more information and download an application.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Alfonso Ramirez

Seven Brooks City-Base Airmen were recognized at a Nov. 30 promotion ceremony at the Brooks Club. Those who were recognized (clockwise from top left): Airman Basic Frank Hayden, 311th Medical Squadron; Airman Timothy McClelland, 311th MDS; Airman Anthony Greseth, Air Force Institute for Operation Health; Airman Michael Dustin, 68th Information Operations Squadron; Master Sgt. Daniel Meadow, 311th Human Systems Wing; Airman Christina Nkya, 311th MDS; and Senior Airman Anya Reichenberg, 311th MDS.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE PROMOTEEES

Brooks to host powerlifting and bench press competition

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

Powerlifters from area military bases and the University of Texas will join dozens of other athletes who will compete in the Brooks Fitness Center's 11th December Fest Powerlifting and Bench Press Meet Dec. 11 at the base gym.

Registration for this USA Powerlifting sanctioned meet is Dec. 7. "We'll have the early weigh in on Dec. 10 from 5 to 7 p.m. and the late weigh in on Dec. 11 from 7 to 8 a.m.

The meet will start at 9:30 a.m.," said Willie Mastin, Brooks fitness center specialist and event organizer.

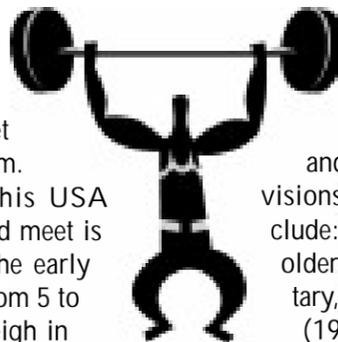
Teams from Fort Hood, Texas and UT will compete in this state meet along with athletes from Lackland and Randolph AFBs and the civilian community. Last year, Randolph AFB Air-

man Adrian Jackson set an American and state record in two events here. Records set at this meet are officially recognized by USA Powerlifting because the venue is officiated by nationally qualified judges, including Mr.

Mastin who is former Texas chairman for USA Powerlifting.

Powerlifting features three events: squat, bench and dead lift. Competitive divisions for men and women include: open, masters (age 40 and older), submasters (35-39), military, teenage (14-18) and juniors (19-23). The meet also features ten weight classes for women and 12 for men.

Individual entry fees are \$55 for one division and \$35 for each subsequent division. Medals will be given for first, second and third place in all divisions and weight classes. To register, contact Mr. Mastin at 536-2340 or through his email global address.





A LOOK at BROOKS



A1C Jennifer Hebert
USAFSAM

One year my father gave me a stocking full of coal. I was devastated. I thought was my real stocking but he was only pranking me.



SSgt. Denise Portunato
311th MSG

I asked for a stuffed animal one year. What I got was this huge stuffed dog that was bigger than me.



Tech Sgt. Chris Canarina
311th HSW

My sister gave me a five-pound candy cane one year. She thought it was so funny, she gave me one every year after that until my son turned 16 and now he gets one.



Tech Sgt. Kent Lee
311th HSW

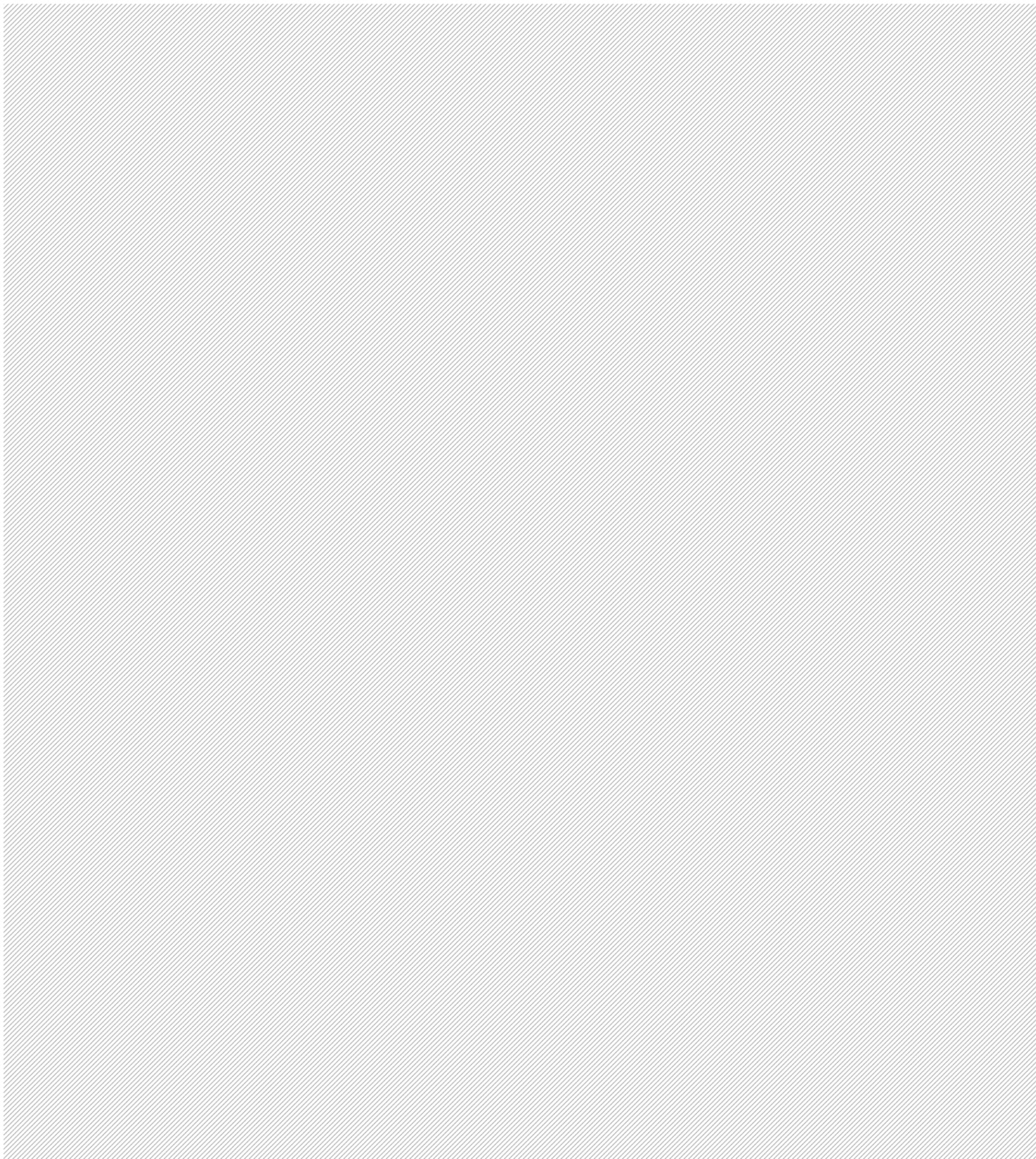
When I was about eight, my grandparents gave me a stuffed Chewbacca. The thing was huge -- nearly as big as I was. I still have it in storage. I am hoping it's a collector's item.

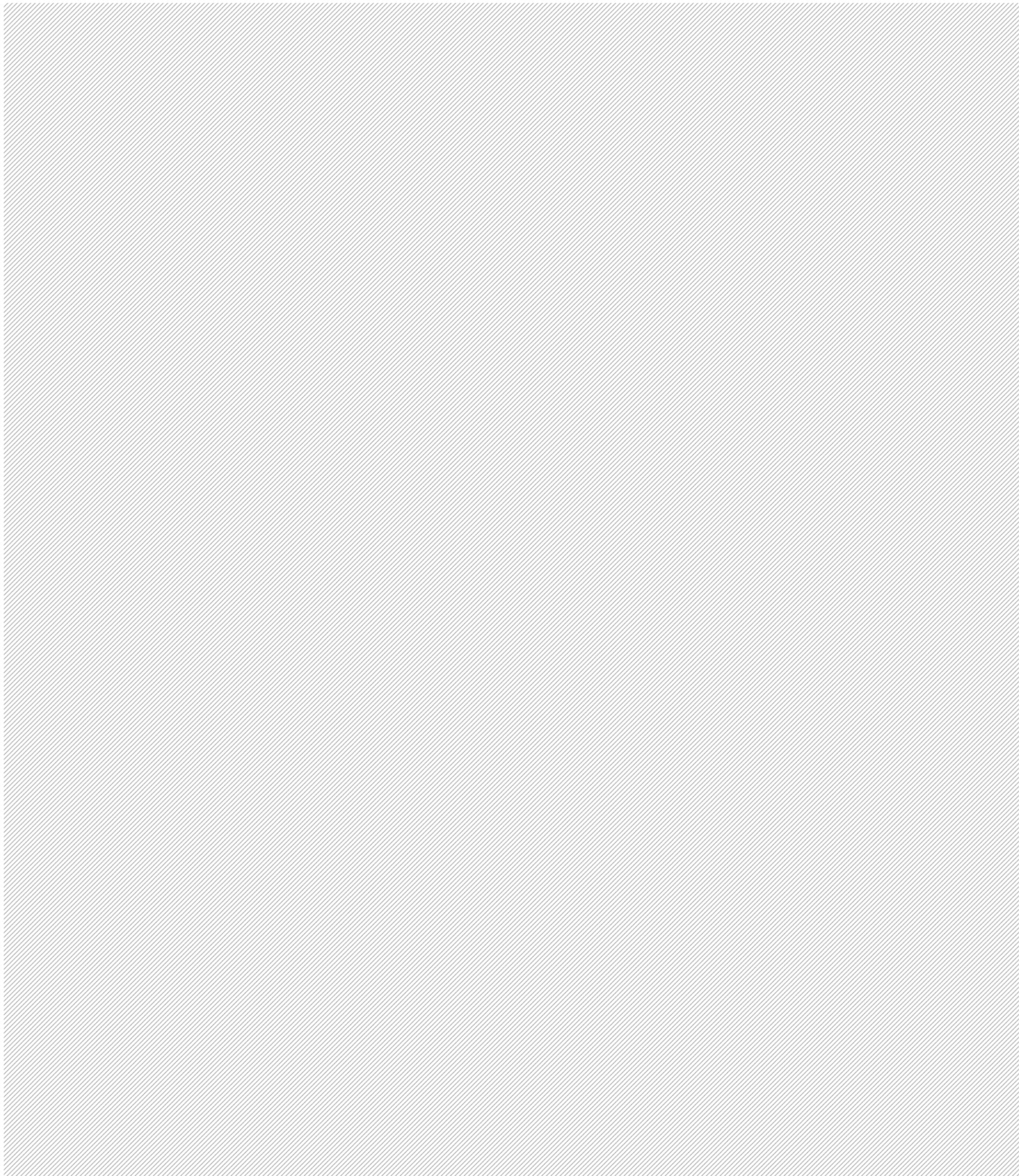


Airman Elisabeth Cruz
USAFSAM

I remember getting a radio one year. A radio doesn't sound crazy, but I grew up in Mexico and we rarely received presents.

What was your
craziest
Christmas
present?







BROOKS
SPOTLIGHT

Things to do around Brooks

SERVICES DIVISION
by Jan McMahon

Center through Dec. 22 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and let someone else do your gift wrapping for you. There is no fee and donations will be accepted. Paper and ribbon will be provided free of charge.

If you have a box for your gift, please bring it with the item to be wrapped. This will help the workers with wrapping your gifts. All donations will go towards the youth and teen center programs.

Base caroling

The base community is invited to go caroling through base housing with the center staff Dec. 15. Carolers will meet at the Youth Center at 5:30 p.m. Think you can't sing? There's no such thing as "can't sing" during the holidays. Join in and help entertain base housing residents with the sounds of holiday songs. All participants will return to the center following the caroling and visit with Santa Claus. Hot chocolate and other refreshments will be served at that time.

Winter Day Camp

The Youth Center will host a winter camp Dec. 20 through Jan. 3, 2005. The camp is for youth ages five to 12 and will last from 6:45 a.m. to 5 p.m. Breakfast, lunch and snacks will be provided for camp attendees. Several field trips are being scheduled for the Winter Day Camp.

BASE LIBRARY

536-2534, Bldg. 705

Be Eager About Reading

Everyone is encouraged to participate in BEAR with the Base Library. Through December, the staff will collect new and almost new teddy bears that will be donated to the Child Protective Services Office of San Antonio. All bears collected will be delivered to the agency to be given to children under their guidance during the holidays.

Gift wrapping help

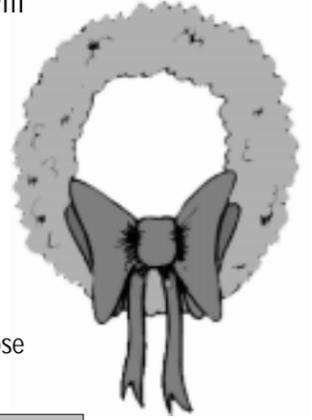
Santa Claus will send his helpers to make your holiday gift wrapping painless. All you need to do is bring your gifts to the Youth

HOLIDAY DECORATING CONTEST

Brooks City-Base will conduct the Holiday Decorating Contest, formerly known as the Holiday Greeting Card Contest. Organizations are requested to resurrect previously used Christmas cards and display them in front of their organization as soon as possible. All decorations, including greeting cards, will be displayed for the Brooks City-Base personnel to enjoy.

RULES

1. Electric string lights and wiring must be UL approved and in good condition.
2. Decorations must be noncombustible or fire retardant.
3. No decorations will hang down into entrances of buildings.
4. Larger decorations such as Christmas trees, will not block entrances, exits or pathways.
5. Decorations utilizing open flames are prohibited.
6. All electrical decorations must be unplugged when buildings are unoccupied.
7. Register decorations with Denise Martin (denise.martin@brookscity-base.com).
8. Decorations should be placed in front of organizations as soon as possible.
9. Judging will be held Dec. 17.
10. All decorations must be removed no later than close of business Jan. 4.



AWARDS

1st Place — \$75, 2nd Place — \$50, 3rd Place — \$25
Two Honorable Mention awards — \$10

BROOKS CLUB

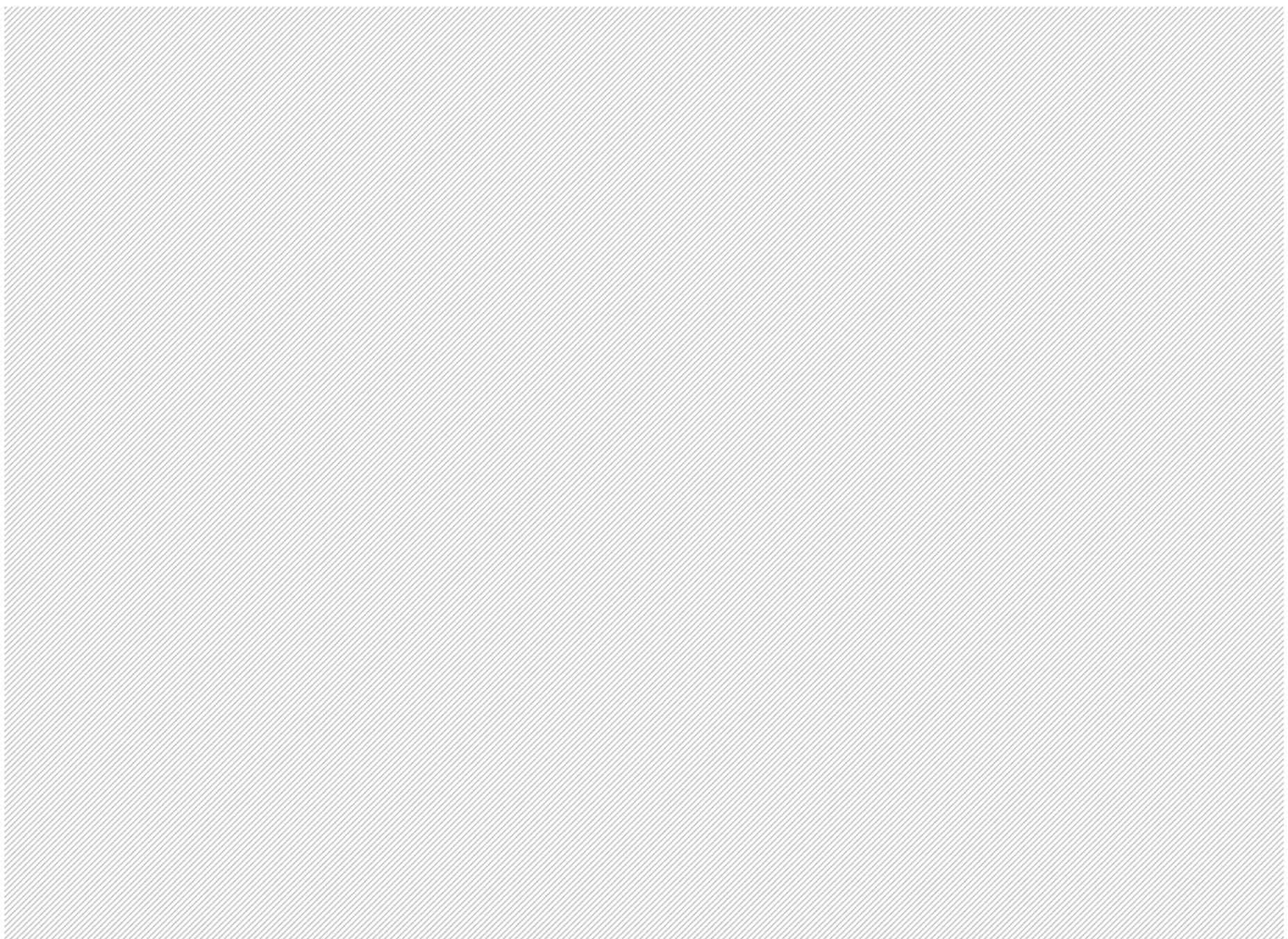
536-3782, Bldg. 204

Family Night Buffets are held every Tuesday evening beginning at 4:30 p.m. The cost for club members is \$5.50 for adults, \$2 for children, ages 6-12 years. Children five years and younger eat free. Non-members will pay \$7.50 for adults and \$3 for children ages six to 12 years.

PREMIERE DESIGNS

536-2120, Bldg. 705

Premier Designs can create a keepsake to remember those special occasions. They will inscribe a name, logo or phrase on a wine glass, glass mug or picture frame glass. They also have several gift items and stocking stuffers. Hours of operation are Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.





Civilian Quarterly Awards Third quarter winners



IRMA BRISENO
311th Human Systems Wing
GS-6 through GS-8



SILVIA CASTLEBERRY
AF Institute for Operational Health
GS-9 through GS-11



TAMMY O'NEILL
AF Center for Environmental Excellence
GS-12 through GS-13/GM-13

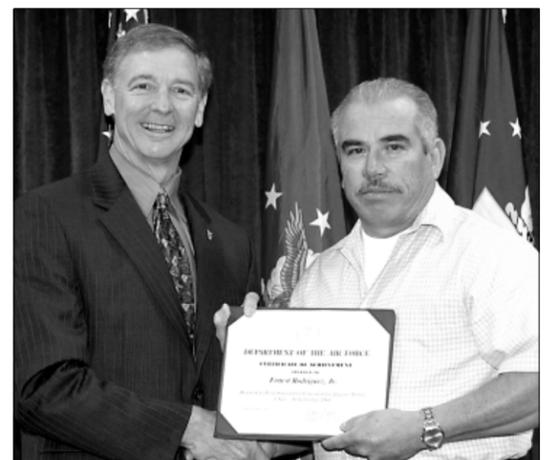


MERRY LUX
311th Mission Support Group
NAF Technician

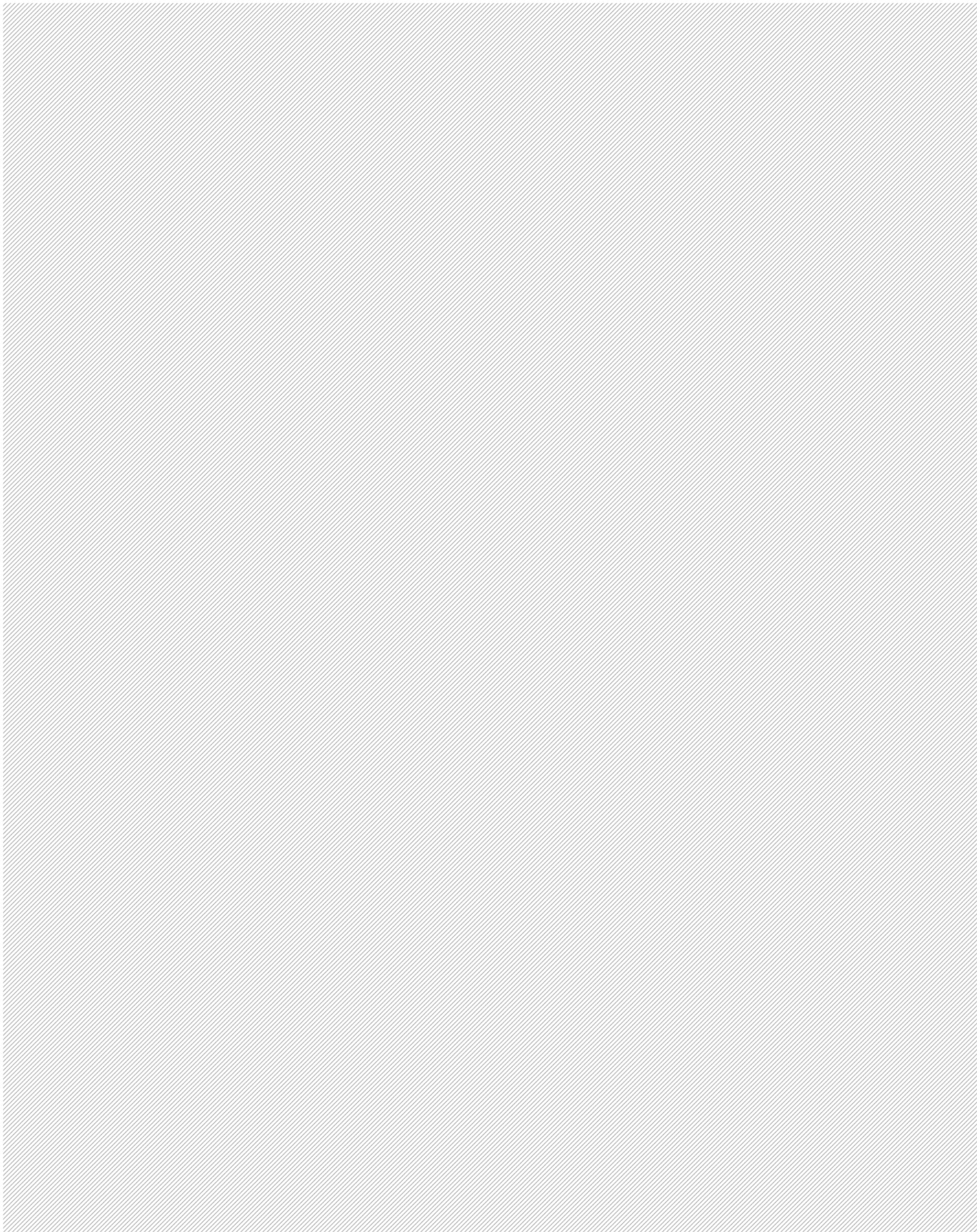
The Civilian Quarterly Awards were presented Nov. 18 at a ceremony at the Brooks Club. Dr. Eric Stephens, deputy director of the 311th Human Systems Wing, presented the awards. (Not pictured: Herman Doege, student aide, and Jennifer Mitchell, GS-3 through GS-5.)

**Congratulations to all nominees
and to this quarter's winners!**

Photos by Airman 1st Class Samantha Shieh



ERNEST RODRIGUEZ
311th Mission Support Group
WG/WL/WS/NAF Manager





Brooks
Personality
PROFILE



PINEAULT



FULL NAME/RANK:
Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Alan Pineault

**DUTY TITLE,
ORGANIZATION:**
311th Human Systems Wing
Chaplain

**IN SIMPLE TERMS,
WHAT DO YOU DO?:**
Responsible to the Wing
commander for ensuring the free
exercise of religion to all members
of Brooks City-Base

BIRTHDAY:
Dec. 29, 1947

HOMETOWN:
Winchendon, Mass.

FAMILY STATUS:
Married, two great kids

PERSONAL MOTTO:
Col 3:17: And whatever you do in
word or deed, do all in the name of
the Lord Jesus, giving thanks
through Him to God the Father.
and "Life's too short to not have a
good time"

PET PEEVE:
Preachers who say they are going
to preach from a particular text,
read the text and then never refer
to it again in the sermon

INSPIRATIONS:
Brenda, Danny, Kristy, retired Air
Force Col. Bobby Wright

HOBBIES:
Golf, hunting, fishing, skeet
shooting

ULTIMATE GOAL:
To hear the words, "Well done thou
good and faithful servant"

BOOK AT BEDSIDE:
Bible

**MY GREATEST
ACCOMPLISHMENT:**
Faithful husband and good dad,
education (Bachelor of Science
degree in physics, 1974, Master of
Theology degree, 1978)

**MY MOST PRIZED
POSSESSION:**
First my family; second, my
Remington 3200

On the 'fairway' to Heaven

By Steve VanWert
Discovery staff writer

Lt. Col. Alan Pineault, 311th Human Systems Wing Chaplain, loves the military and serving God, so he's doing both, with a little time left to tee off.

Chaplain Pineault was born in Winchendon, Mass., in 1947, the home of the original "Hobby Horse" child's toy, Winchendon is located near the New Hampshire border and is called "Toy Town." He graduated from Notre Dame High School in Fitchburg, Mass., in 1965, and like many young men, didn't have a firm vision of what to do next. But he knew he wanted to learn how to fly, so he enrolled in the Lowell Technological Institute and joined Air Force ROTC.

But he discovered his bad vision made him ineligible for later flying training. Disappointed, he dropped out after a semester and enlisted in the Air Force in June 1966. After graduating from technical school at Lowry Air Force Base, Colo., as a weapons mechanic specialist, he found himself stationed at the 33rd Tactical Fighter Wing at Eglin AFB, Fla., as an F-4 weapons mechanic. In October 1967, he was sent to Udorn RTAFB Thailand. After a year in Thailand, he was assigned to Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz., where he separated from the Air Force in 1970.

While at Davis-Monthan, his life took a sudden turn. He was introduced to a friend's sister. She came to visit, they fell in love, he proposed and they were married on April 8, just after he separated from the service.

Soon he found a construction job and, using his GI Bill benefits, Chaplain Pineault enrolled in Lowell Tech for a second time. This time the motivation to succeed was there, and he graduated with a bachelor's degree in physics in 1974.

It was while at Lowell Tech that the second major event in his life occurred. During his junior year, through home Bible Study, he found Jesus as his personal savior. His religion became "near and dear to my heart," he said. "It was a salvation of soul and of marriage.

It said something to me," he said. He applied to the Dallas Theological Seminary, but there were more than 350 applications. "Lo and behold," he said, "I was selected."

At the Dallas Seminary, he had to make up several humanitarian and world civilization courses that he never had a chance to take as a physics major. It was new to him in many ways. "When I attended Lowell Tech," he said, "the curriculum was heavy on math. I hadn't taken many electives."

In 1978, he received his ThM degree and the family moved back to New England.

He became the pastor of a small church in Haverhill, Mass., and then in 1980 moved to Newport, Vt., near the



Photos by Staff Sgt. Alfonso Ramirez Jr.

Canadian border, and stayed there for six years. While there, the third major event in his life took place, and it happened on a golf course.

"In 1982, I was invited to play golf by a member of the congregation," he said. "I had caddied while a teenager, but wasn't moved by it then." But he was this time. "It was breathtaking," he said. "The green grass, the trees, the blue sky, the challenge of playing well; it was all beautiful"

It's been a life's passion for the last 22 years. In 1982, a memory of the military returned to him. "I found myself serving as a chaplain in the Vermont Army National Guard, but in 1985 I felt the call of God to become an Air Force chaplain," he said. "So I inquired about it, but was told I was too old to become an Air Force chaplain. I was asked if I wanted to become an Army chaplain, but I resisted because I had friends and relatives in the Air Force. I returned home and prayed a lot about it."

In February 1986, he called again to inquire, ready to accept an active duty Army chaplain position. "The fellow I talked to looked at me and said, 'How about an Air Force chaplain commission? I've got one opening and it's yours if you want it.' I was thrilled."

He accepted and became a Protestant chaplain at Castle AFB, Calif., in May 1986.

At Castle, he and his wife adopted a boy. At age 40, he had a son. "It was the best thing that ever happened," he said.

But it was not without ordeal. The baby boy was born prematurely, weighing only 2 pounds, 8 ounces. Buoyed by faith and love, he gained weight. At two months, he weighed 4 pounds, 5 ounces. At six months, he weighed 8 pounds, 6 ounces. Sixteen years later, he's healthy and doing great. "I'm very proud of him," said the colonel.

The next year, a young lady came in for counseling. Chaplain Pineault helped her with life issues. They became close friends and she began attending church. Six months later, she asked him if they'd adopt her soon-to-be born child. The Pineaults agreed and soon had a daughter. They still remain close to the birth mother. "We feel blessed. It's a gift from God."

Subsequent tours found him serving as Protestant chaplain at several different bases. He was Wing chaplain at Cannon and Kirtland. In 2002, he became chief, professional plans and programs at Scott

AFB, Ill., and came to Brooks in July 2004 as Wing Chaplain.

"This is a wonderful place," he said. "I plan on retiring here. This is going to be my last active duty assignment."

After retirement, he hopes to become pastor of a small-to-medium sized church in the San Antonio area and, oh yes, play some golf.

Golf has been an abiding joy for Chaplain Pineault for many years. After taking up the game full time, he improved to a 12 handicap the first year, an eight the next and a five the third. He stayed at a three for about four years, then to a one and has maintained a scratch handicap since 1994. Golf has brought about much personal success. He was base champion at Kadena AB in 1993 and runner-up twice, base champion at Pope AFB in 1997, club champion at Fairwell Country Club in Clovis, N.M., base champion twice at Kirtland and once at Lackland in 2004.

"I was a member of the Air Combat Command team in 1996," he said. "We got to go to Scotland in 1999, where we played three times at St. Andrews and at Carnoustie. It was a once-in-a-lifetime trip. Playing golf with the RAF was the most fun I've ever had on a course."

He considers 2001 his best competitive year in golf, winning the New Mexico Public Links championship and being a member of the Air Force golf team. As a member of the Air Force team, he traveled to Camp Bordon in Canada to play. "We met some wonderful people there from South Africa and Canada," he said. "I have lots of wonderful memories."

He never forgets, though, his primary job in the Air Force. "I love my job here," he said. "I'm responsible for all religious programs on base. There's one other Protestant chaplain here, so we both get to go into the pulpit and be pastors again. It's interacting with people that I love."

"Increased operations tempo creates more separation for families. Just because the ops cycle is more predictable doesn't make it less stressful. I try to help people be more aware of those around them. The challenge is to get everyone back to being our brother's keeper, that old Air Force feeling of taking care of each other."

Chaplain Pineault is available to talk to anyone with a problem, whether it's ops tempo or a putting stroke.



Feature



A 'whale' of a time

Deep-sea fishing trip nets kudos for Project CHEER

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

Neither Moby Dick nor Nemo were ever sited, but it didn't prevent Brooks anglers from having 'a whale of a good time' while searching for adventure in the deep blue sea.

Baited into this journey by the allure of a morale-boosting Project Cheer experience, 23 members of the Brooks community set sail one day in November for a three-hour tour. Fortunately, Gilligan and the Skipper weren't aboard the day they left Port Aransas for deep water in the Gulf of Mexico.

"We were trying to catch something big," said Dennis Chapoy, Services' Outdoor Recreation manager who organized the trip. What they caught more than anything else was the enthusiasm and camaraderie produced

35 miles out from shore while fishing in international waters.

"We were looking for yellow fin tuna, yellow striped red fish and sharks," recalls Mr. Chapoy, who was impressed by how well everyone braved turbulent seas and stomachs. "I was very proud of them. No one got sick," he said.

More importantly, they had success in creating some long-lasting fish stories and shark tales.

Master Sgt. Quentin Benning, a 311th Communications Squadron deep-sea fishing veteran, caught a 35-pound amberjack. "It took me 30 minutes to reel it in. It (initially) felt like a shark, but this fish quit fighting a couple of times. Sharks really fight hard and never give up," said Sergeant Benning, having previously experienced the joy of catching a 30-pound browntip shark and the agony of letting a hammerhead shark get away. Nevertheless, he was proud of having caught on this trip the first fish of the day.

He explained that deep-sea fishing requires a lot of patience, some strength and a bit of skill. The Omaha, Neb. native, who once caught a 56-pound catfish, was thrilled that Mr. Chapoy had arranged the first deep-sea fishing expedition in Brooks history.

"Deep-sea fishing is what I want to do for a living when I retire. I want to own a charter fishing boat," says the 19-year Air

Force veteran. As for the amberjack, he noted, "It was delicious. It dressed to 26 pounds. I still have some steaks left in my freezer."

The trip produced a new fish steaks convert: Airman 1st Class Brooke Boblett from the 68th Information Operations Squadron. A novice angler, this deep-sea explorer reeled in an edible eight-pound blacktip shark. "She was tickled pink catching that shark. Ronald Parker, her father, caught five kingfish," Mr. Chapoy said.

Not everybody was so lucky. Mr. Chapoy reported that one unfortunate soul had 'bait' trouble. "This individual hooked the eye of a squid. Bloody ink squirted into that person's mouth," he said.

While there was plenty of ocean for everyone, some fishermen got into a tussle over fishing hole 'right-of-way.'

"My boss, Capt. Michael Wyatt, was fishing next to me and we both caught the same fish at the same time," Mr. Chapoy said, "The rascal took his bait and then took mine. Boy, we were both so excited reeling in a fish at the same time, thinking this is gonna be a good fishing day. To our surprise, it was a small one and we both had our hooks in it."

"Captain Wyatt said 'Come on Dennis, find your own fish. You only have the whole Gulf of Mexico!' We felt so bad for the hungry little guy that we let the little sucker go," Mr. Chapoy recalled.

Mr. Chapoy, however, had nothing to feel bad about regarding the successful outing. He credits Project CHEER for



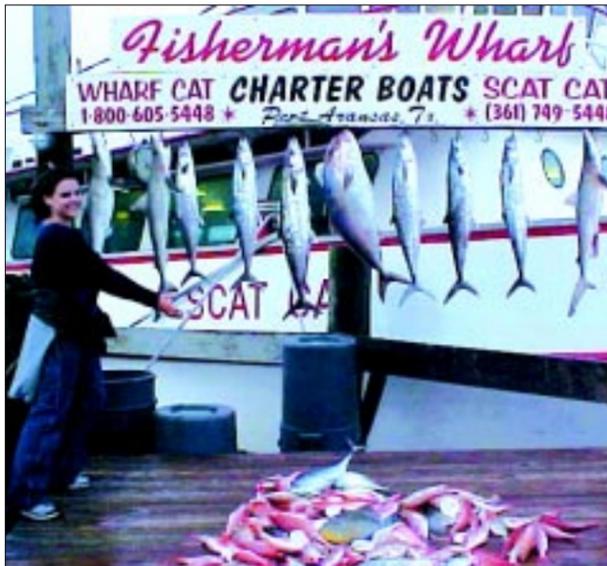
Courtesy Photos

Master Sgt. Quentin Benning, 311th Communications Squadron, netted the largest fish during a recent deep-sea fishing expedition sponsored by Services' Outdoor Recreation.

creating interest in the expedition, an idea that floundered a year ago when he tried to organize a similar trip.

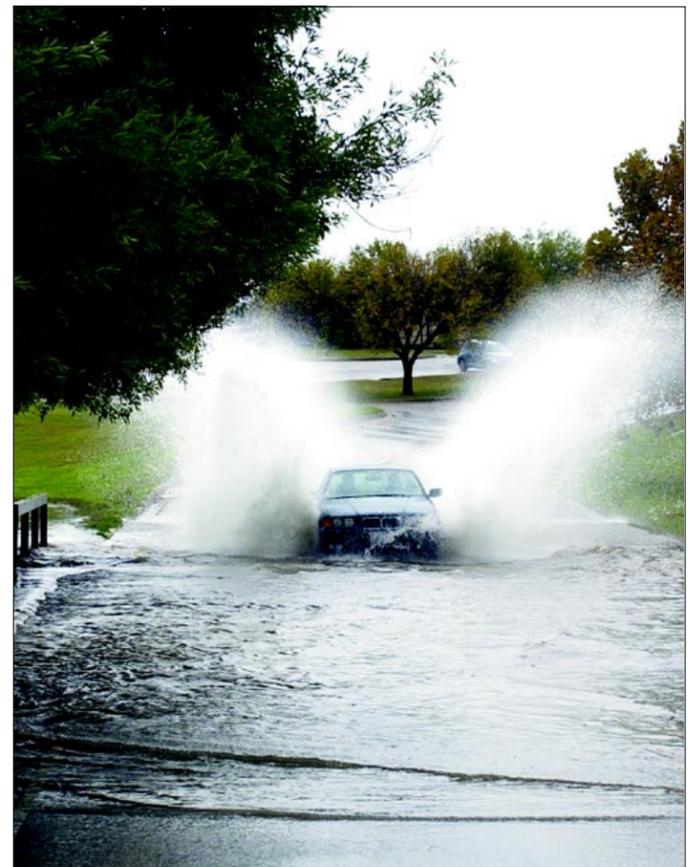
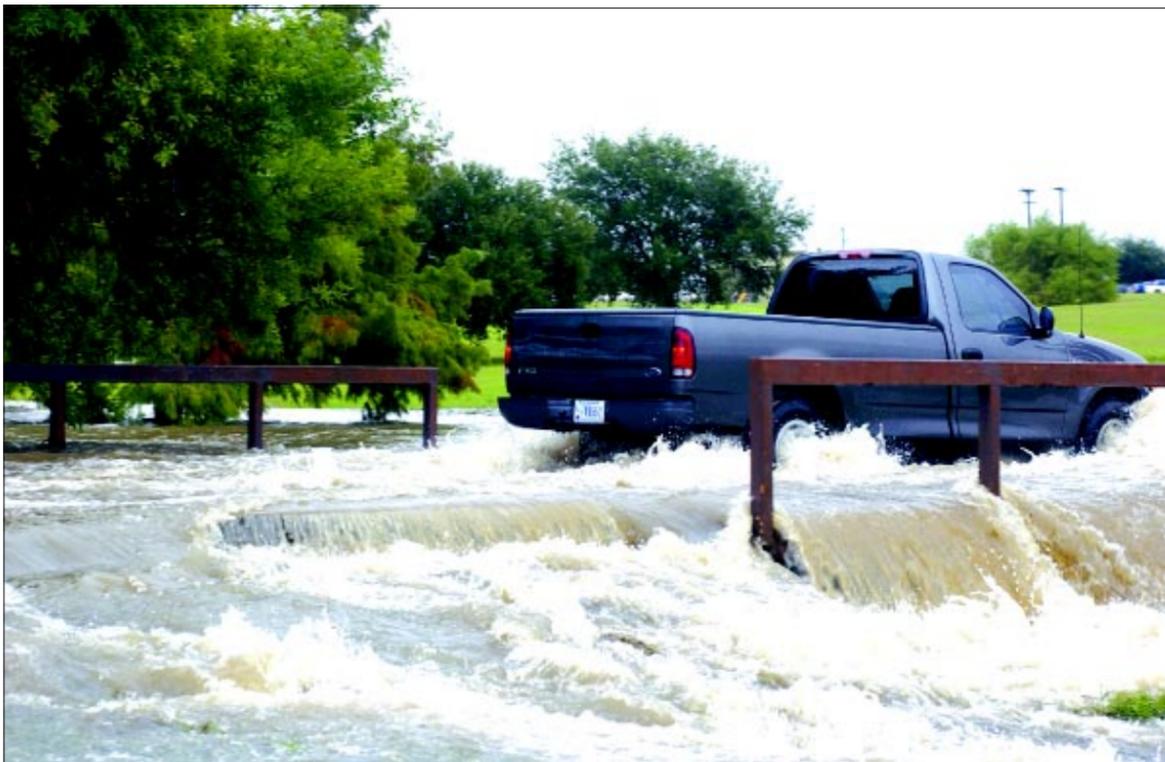
Everybody was 'on board' for this adventure, something he hopes to stage again next spring when the red fish are snapping. To be sure, Mr. Chapoy has whetted interest at Brooks in future fishing excursions, noting that those who participated "took to it like a duck takes to water."

Without going overboard in his description of this fish story, Mr. Chapoy, however, could not resist saying that everyone had a "reel" whale of a good time.



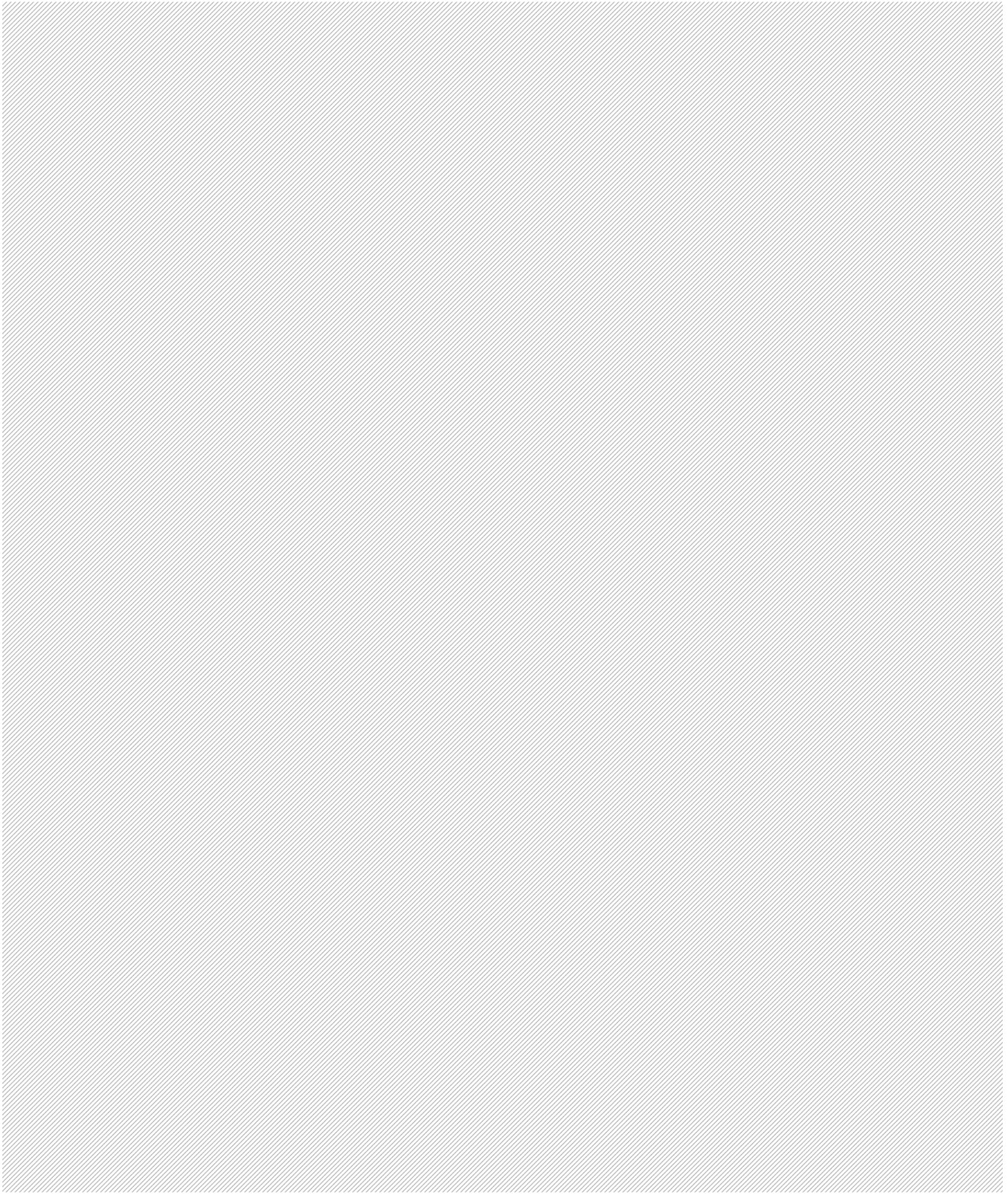
Novice angler Airman 1st Class Brooke Boblett, from the 68th Information Operations Squadron, points to an eight-pound blacktip shark she reeled in during the expedition.

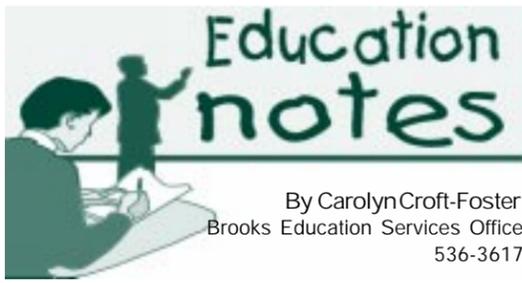
THE RAINS CAME DOWN ...



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Anita Schroeder

Heavy rains last week flooded numerous roads throughout San Antonio, including this section of Sidney Brooks near the golf course.





By Carolyn Croft-Foster
Brooks Education Services Office
536-3617

St. Mary's University

St. Mary's University has a graduate school representative at the Education Office every Wednesday from noon to 2 p.m. St. Mary's offers 24 graduate programs, including business administration, computer information systems, industrial and clinical psychology, engineering systems and international relations.

St. Mary's also offers post-baccalaureate initial teacher certification for Texas. For qualified individuals, St. Mary's graduate school offers a partial tuition grant. Additional information can be obtained by scheduling an appointment with the St. Mary's representative through the Brooks Education Office.

Spouses to Teachers Program

The Department of Defense tasked DANTES to develop and manage a new pilot program to help spouses begin careers as teachers. The Spouses to Teachers Program has just been launched in six states with a large military population and a need for public school teachers.

These states are California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Texas and Virginia. Based on interest and activity, additional states may be added in the future. All eligible spouses who wish to become teachers in the pilot states may receive assistance from the Spouses to Teachers Program. This includes spouses who have already earned a baccalaureate degree or higher, as well as spouses who are at the undergraduate level. Degreed spouses will be counseled on their options for achieving certification and information on potential funding sources and employment opportunities.

Non-degree holders will receive help in identifying degree completion programs, as well as information about possible financial assistance, both state and federal, and the potential for finding employment as teacher's aides or other positions in public schools. To take advantage of this pilot program in Texas, spouses may contact the Texas pilot office toll free at 1-800-815-5484.

Upper Iowa on base and online

Register now for Upper Iowa University – Distance Learning. Courses are available in business and public administration. Online and correspondence courses are also available in other majors. The Upper Iowa University office in the Brooks Education Center is open Monday through Friday. The coordinator also holds advising hours at Lackland on Thursdays. For more information, visit the website at www.uiu.edu, stop by the Brooks office, Bldg. 558, or call 536-4033.

Montgomery GI Bill participants can increase benefits

Active duty personnel, currently enrolled in the Montgomery GI Bill, have the opportunity to increase Chapter 30 GI Bill benefits by \$5,400 — from

\$23,400 to \$28,800 — for a maximum contribution of \$600. This payment increases the full-time monthly rate one dollar for every four dollars contributed. The minimum payment is \$20 per month. Contributions can be started and stopped at any time while the participant is on active duty. This is not a pay reduction; therefore, there is not a tax savings. This benefit is only open to personnel who first entered active duty on or after July 1, 1985 and elected to participate in the MGIB. This feature is not open to Vietnam-Era or VEAP converttees. For more information, call 536-3618.

Air Force Virtual Education Center

The Virtual Education Center is now online. Servicemembers can view information about Air Force Education Centers and CCAF. CCAF students can order CCAF transcripts from this site. There are also practice tests available for CLEP exams on this site. To access the AFVEC go to afvec.langley.af.mil and establish an account. For more information call 536-3617.

Discover Program online

The Discover Program is a career exploration program for individuals searching for a new career. This program can be used by military, civilians and family members. For more information or to schedule an appointment to review the website and get started, call 536-3617.

ACCD registration underway

Palo Alto and the other ACCD schools are currently registering students for the Spring terms. The ACCD representative visits Brooks City-Base on Tuesday mornings. Classes will be offered on base from 1630-1930 Monday thru Thursday evenings. To schedule an appointment with the ACCD representative, Rose Medrano, call 536-3617.

Texas State University

Texas State University offers a Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences. The BAAS degree provides an excellent opportunity for individuals to capitalize on prior work and training experiences. Students pursuing this degree may transfer semester hours previously earned, individualize

the degree plan with major emphasis in an occupational field of choice, and earn semester hour credit for work and life experience and training conducted by business, industry, and military. Night classes are available in the San Antonio and San Marcos area. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 536-3618.



Women hoopsters prepare for Brooks home opener

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

The 2004-2005 Brooks women's varsity basketball team will play its home opener Saturday at 11 a.m. at the fitness center gym in what its coach predicts will be the beginning of a championship season.

Led by team captain Veronica Berry Jones, a veteran guard from the 68th Information Operations Squadron, the club fans will see in action this weekend against Randolph AFB features a determined and dedicated group who plan to do much more than just revive a once dormant women's varsity hoop program.

"We're rebuilding a whole system from the ground up. We're creating a program before we create a team," said Brooks fitness center specialist

Hosea Talbert, head coach of the women's varsity basketball team. Talbert, who coached the Brooks men's varsity team for three seasons, believes in this newly reconstituted women's

squad. So confident is he that the veteran coach believes the Brooks women's team is comparable to the championship squads he coached to European championships.

"This (Brooks) team is a mixed blend of veterans and rookies, comparable to my early Mildenhall (Air Base) teams," said Talbert, who has experience building championship programs.

The year before he became head coach there, the Mildenhall



Coach Hosea Talbert gives some pointers to shooting guard Jennifer Smith.

women's varsity team had an 0-20 record in 1990. He subsequently transformed that team into champions. "In 1991, we were 36-4. We lost only two regular season games and lost two in the USAFE tournament. I took them to the finals. We were runners up."

Talbert never had a losing season at Mildenhall, leading the women's varsity team to five USAFE championships and five second place finishes. More importantly, he developed a formula for suc-

cess based on a proven coaching philosophy.

"I got to know that team. I watched them play the year before I became coach. Many of the players were playing out-of-position. My philosophy is to understand the nature, character and ability of the players. I understood their strengths and weaknesses," he said. At Brooks, he plans to develop a culture of winning.

"Good players win ball games, but good teams win championships. We've got good players here and we're going to create a good team," Talbert said.

During a recent intrasquad scrimmage, the Brooks players realized they have formed a team that could possibly dominate the Southwest Military Basketball League. "I have a lot of confidence in their ability. We have great shooters on this team. We have to work on man-to-man defense. We're going to play a lot of matchup zones," Talbert said.

The team plans to rely on its dribbling and perimeter shooting ability and speed to compensate for its small size. Air Force Research Laboratory's Jennifer Smith, a shooting guard, is a legitimate three point specialist. Other impact players include guard Trena McCartney from the Air Force Medical Support Agency, who Talbert describes as the team's floor general; dependent Samantha Earl who is



Photos by Staff Sgt. Alfonso Ramirez Jr.

Hosea Talbert, Brooks fitness center specialist and head coach of the women's varsity basketball team, is preparing his team for their first home games of the season, this weekend at the fitness center.

equally adept at both small and power forward; 68th IOS's Candice Tolentino at center and power forward; and Air Force Institute for Operational Health guard Nya Brown, who previously played for the Robins AFB varsity team and was also selected to play for the All-Air Force hoop squad

Other key players include dependent Amy Smith, who plays both guard positions as well as small forward; K.C. Parks, the shooting guard/small forward from the 311th Mission Support Group; YA's Heather Hudson, a shooting guard and small forward, and Whitney Ponzoha, who plays

both guard positions; and guards Erica Anderson and Angela Ruiz from AFRL, Evelyn Cardona and Brook Wood from AFMSA, and civilian Lea Valdez at both guard positions and small forward.

"Fundamentally, they're pretty good. I think they're in greater (physical) shape than most teams around here," Talbert observed.

The Brooks women also play on Sunday at 11 a.m. against Randolph. The Brooks men's varsity team plays Randolph AFB here on Saturday and Sunday. Both games will start at 1 p.m.

Breaking the ice: Brooks doctor teaches teamwork to hockey kids

By Rudy Purificato
311th Human Systems Wing

The hockey kids he mentors are no longer frozen stiff when it comes to learning the fundamentals of the game. Nevertheless, getting their undivided attention is usually accomplished through a freeze-frame conditioned response when they hear the motivational sound of their coach's duck call.

"Hey kids, what time is it?" enthusiastically shouts Col. Chris Kleinsmith. It always elicits the team's familiar refrain: "It's hockey time!" With boundless energy and a hunger to become better at their positions, the players that Kleinsmith coaches have learned the most important concept in sports: teamwork is as cool as it is essential.

Kleinsmith is among a handful of Brooks workers, past and present, who returned to the ice of their youth to help youngsters perfect the skills they'll need to succeed in a most unforgiving, yet exhilarating game.

"I coach mini-mites who are four, five and six years old," says Kleinsmith, Chair of the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine's International Expeditionary Education and Training Department. The team is part of a youth hockey league that is affiliated with the San Antonio Rampage. Their hockey sessions are conducted on the Rampage's practice rink

at the North Woods Ice Center.

"I teach the fundamentals – positioning, puck handling and passing. My number one rule is no pushing from behind. Rule two is that they keep their heads up when they skate into the boards," he said.

Safety is always the top priority with this Brooks medical doctor who has coached youth hockey in San Antonio since 2002. Having a lot of fun is also at the top of his list. One of the more exciting drills he uses to teach situational reflexes is having them skate as fast as they can before sliding on their stomachs while approaching the blue line.

"I teach them to keep their sticks down and tell them not to touch the puck with their hands. I don't teach them about off-sides, icing or penalties. I point them out, but I don't stop the action," Kleinsmith said.

Learning hockey-style skating is also important, he said, noting that it's quite different from in-line skating familiar to today's generation.

"One of the biggest challenges I have with this group is that they have a tendency to track to the puck," he said, noting that he and his assistant coaches focus on breaking them of that herding be-



Photo by Rudy Purificato

Col. (Dr.) Chris Kleinsmith of the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine works with a youth hockey player at San Antonio's Northwoods Ice Center.

havior. He seldom hesitates to blow a duck call to "freeze in place" players to instruct them.

"Some kids are naturals; they have instincts (for the game). It's a lot of fun watching them (interact) in the dressing room with their sweaty heads and red faces," Kleinsmith said. While he was honored years ago as junior hockey "Coach of the Year," he feels his real reward is in having helped promote and perpetuate the sport among today's youth.

His love of the sport developed while growing up in Detroit, Mich., where his

mother, a former Canadian figure skater taught him and his brothers how to skate. The 50-year-old Air Force officer began skating when he was about four years old, the same age of his youngest mini-mite players. By five, he was playing organized hockey as a right winger and center. He was totally emersed in the Detroit hockey culture.

"My brother and I would do odd jobs and sell pop bottles to pay for standing room only tickets at the old Olympiad Arena where the Red Wings played," he said.

His life-long love of the game was forever sealed when he met Detroit's greatest player and future Hall of Famer Gordie Howe. "He was a big influence on me," Kleinsmith said of Howe. However, he learned from another great Red Wing player, Pete Mahovolich, tips about playing the game.

"He taught me how to survive as a little guy. He told me it was hard for him as a big guy to body check fast little guys, especially while trying to pin them against the boards." It was a lesson that would serve him well as both an adult player and youth coach.

"I had aspirations of playing professionally, but I was not good or big enough," Kleinsmith said. It didn't stop him from playing college hockey or for military teams composed mostly of Canadian players. To him, any off-duty moment is "hockey time."